

URGENT BUILDING FOR NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Historical Association Mem-
bers Will Act at the Meet-
ing Tuesday.

U. S. FAR BEHIND EUROPE
IN CARE OF DOCUMENTS

Congress Will Be Asked for Money
to Carry Out the Plans Al-
ready Under Way.

When the American Historical Association convenes in Washington Tuesday one of the most important objects of its meeting will be to set before members of Congress and the learned world the need for the erection of a building in this city to shelter the national archives and to protect them from the ravages to which they have been exposed for over a century.

It is beginning to be realized that it is high time for the government to follow the example of foreign governments and even of states and corporations in giving adequate attention to the preservation of its records. A Russian writer has stated that the care which a nation bestows upon the monuments of its history may well serve as an index to the state of civilization to which that nation has attained. If this test were applied to the government of the United States it is to be feared that it would fall far below many small and relatively unimportant countries in the scale of civilization.

Care in European Capitals.

In London one finds the national records carefully brought together in the public record office. In Paris one finds them in the national archives, where they are the objects of jealous care on the part of their custodians; all over Germany one finds modern and perfectly equipped archive buildings; hardly a town in the low countries but what has a building for the preservation of its records. Many of the South American countries have built beautiful structures to house the monuments of their history; in Washington one finds the government's records scattered about in a hundred or more different places in the District of Columbia; some are in the navy yard, some are stored in the annexes of departmental buildings; some are in the basements of rented buildings, a tribute to that peculiar brand of economy which prefers to pay a large rental for inconvenient and unsuitable quarters rather than build adequate structures which would provide proper accommodations and comport with the dignity of the national government. The history of the archives is one which must sadden the hearts of all interested in our national history. From 1800 down to the present date there have been many disastrous fires, of which record is made in the destruction of all records of the Treasury Department prior to 1833. There have been countless cases of thefts, of the destruction of autographs, and of destruction by heat or damp, by rats and through carelessness.

Conditions Are Improving.

It must be admitted that of late years conditions have much improved. Departmental officials can no longer be accused of negligence or carelessness in preserving their records from preventable damage, but handicapped as they are by the necessity of storing the archives wherever space can be found for them, oftentimes in buildings not completely under their control, it is easy to see that there is still a long way to go before anyone can claim that the care of the government will be attained.

Congress has already made provision for the erection of a national archive building. It is understood that several preliminary studies for this building have been completed, and doubtless Congress will soon be asked to make a provision for the erection of the building itself.

Meeting in Continental Hall.

At a public meeting to be held in Continental Hall Tuesday afternoon, December 28, at 3:30 o'clock, the Historical, Economic, Political, Science and other associations which are gathered here in Washington will bring the weight of their influence to bear in favor of the erection of a national archive building. Senator Miles, President of the Historical Association, will preside at the meeting, which is well known and who has presided at through several sessions of Congress, will preside at this meeting. The first speaker will be Prof. Frank W. Taussig, the well known economist of Harvard University. Prof. Taussig will point out the great value of the national archives to the student, and will then tell how indispensable the records are to the administration itself. Prof. Benjamin F. Shambaugh of the University of Iowa, who has traveled about the country examining state archives, will show, with the aid of lantern slides, what various states, cities and even corporations have done for the care of their records. He will be followed by Waldo G. Leland, secretary of the American Historical Association, who will tell of archive buildings that he has seen in Europe and of the number of pictures of them. Leo F. Stock of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who for the last eight or ten years has devoted his life to his investigations in the archives in Washington, will describe, with the aid of lantern slides, some of the most interesting among the national archives. Finally, Louis A. Simon, superintendent of the drafting division in the office of the supervising architect of the Treasury, under whose directions the studies for the new building have been prepared, will present by means of lantern slides certain of these studies, showing how the United States may have the finest archive building in the world.

Topics of the Historians.

The historians, however, will not confine their attention exclusively to the national records. In the present year of war the topic which is absorbing all interest makes perhaps a stronger appeal to the historian than to any other class of student. Topics suggested by the war will receive abundant consideration. Wednesday morning in the large ballroom of the New Willard Hotel Prof. William S. Ferguson of Harvard University and Prof. George W. Botsford of Columbia University will read papers on "Economic Causes of International Rivalries and Wars in Ancient Times." The statement has so often been made that the fundamental cause of the present war is an economic one, that it is of peculiar interest to examine into the causes of wars of other times, and to see whether they have been mainly economic or mainly political, or whether they have been both.

Another subject that has been much talked of in connection with the great war is the question of colonization. It is said that the possession of colonies by one great power and the lack of colonies by another great power has been one of the principal causes in bringing about hostilities. Tuesday morning, December

28, in the large ballroom of the New Willard, there will be a session devoted to the subject of "Medieval Colonization." Prof. James W. Thompson of the University of Chicago will deliver an address on "Anglo-Saxon Colonization," while Prof. Howard L. Gray of Bryn Mawr College will discuss the various problems of "Anglo-Saxon Colonization." Prof. Eugene H. Byrne of the University of Wisconsin will tell of the "Geopos as Colonizers" and Constantine E. McGuire of Washington will read a paper on "Monastic Colonization in Spain."

Aspects of Nationalism.

Perhaps the line of thought that has come most to the front during the last year and a half has been with regard to the various aspects of nationalism. Many have said that the war has been caused by a mistaken sense of patriotism. Why, it is asked, should we be national rather than international? Thursday morning, at a session in the New Willard Hotel, Prof. James Harvey Robinson, who is recognized as one of the most brilliant lecturers in American universities, will present a paper dealing with the historical aspects of nationalism. In what does the spirit of nationalism take its root? Is it affected by factors of language, of religion, or of race? Prof. Robinson's paper will be followed by a discussion which will be participated in by Prof. Edward B. Krehbiel, Prof. William E. Lingelbach, Prof. William T. Laprade, Prof. Ellery C. Stowell and Prof. Thomas F. Moran.

Another session, to be held at the Hotel Shoreham Friday morning, will be devoted to the consideration of nationalism in the British empire. One of the apparently contradictory phenomena of modern politics is the growth of a strong national feeling in the various units that compose the British empire along with the growth of enthusiasm for the empire itself. Prof. Wrong of the University of Toronto and A. Maurice Low of Washington, the London correspondent, will present the leading papers of this session. Their observations will be discussed by Prof. George B. Adams of Yale University and Prof. George L. Beer of New York.

The Naval History Section.

Of particular interest at this time, when preparedness is the all-absorbing theme of public discussion, will be the session of the Historical Association and the Naval History Association, which will be held in the New Willard Hotel Friday morning. Here Capt. Robert I. Rees, U. S. A., will point out the lessons to be learned from the disastrous battle at Bladenburg, a century ago. Presumably he will show how much dependence can be placed upon the untrained volunteers, who, brave enough but wholly without training, spring up to repel the invader. At the same session Prof. Carl R. Fish of the University of Wisconsin will describe the organization of the Wisconsin volunteers during the civil war, while Rear Admiral French Ensign Chadwick, U. S. N., retired, will describe the newly discovered papers of De Grasse, the French admiral, of the American revolution, and will point out how sea power played a decisive role in our struggle for a separate national existence.

While most of the sessions described above deal with European or general history, American history has been by no means neglected. On Tuesday morning, in the New Willard, there will be a session, presided over by Prof. Thomas W. Page of the University of Virginia, especially devoted to American history. Miss Frances G. Davenport of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who has spent several years in careful investigations in European archives, will talk on America and European diplomacy.

History of Agriculture.

Prof. Louis B. Schmidt of Iowa State College will speak of the economic history of American agriculture as a field for study. Especially interesting will be the paper of Dr. Victor S. Clark of the Carnegie Institution of Washington on the influence of manufactures upon political sentiment in the United States from 1820 to 1860. Another interesting paper will be that by Frank Weitenkampf of the New York public library on pictorial documents as illustrating American history.

Three of the most brilliant sessions of the meetings will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the ballroom of the New Willard. On Tuesday, at a meeting presided over by Rear Admiral Charles H. Stockton, president of George Washington University, Prof. Walter F. Willcox of Cornell University, president of the American Economic Association, will deliver an address on "Nationalism and History." Wednesday, Prof. William I. Hull of Swarthmore College will discuss the Monroe doctrine as applied to Mexico, a topic which is not only timely, but the discussion of which, from the point of view of a well known pacifist, promises to be extremely interesting. Another opponent of militarism, the Garrison Villard of New York, will read a paper on "The Submarine and Torpedo in the Blockade of the Confederacy." It is not generally realized that the submarine played any part in the civil war, and Mr. Villard's paper should attract considerable attention as pointing out the early application of two of the principal methods of naval warfare in the present conflict.

Paper on John Marshall.

Former Senator Albert J. Beveridge, who has been for some years engaged in a study of the life of John Marshall, will read a paper on that subject. Thursday evening two diplomats are to present papers. Henry White, former ambassador to France, will talk on "Diplomacy and Politics," while David Jayne Hill, former ambassador to Germany, will speak on "Some Aspects of French-American History." At the same session Miss Ida M. Tarbell will give an account of the education of American women in the first half of the eighteenth century.

The sessions which the American Historical Association is to hold are open to the public, which is cordially invited to attend them. The American Historical Association was organized in 1884. It was incorporated by Congress in 1889 and its annual reports were given the status of public documents, while its principal office was required by law to be located in Washington. Thus it is peculiarly national and representative society. Its services in the cause of American history and in the study of history in America are well known. When one remembers that in 1884 a college professor who devoted all his time to teaching history was a rarity, it will readily be seen what advance has been made during the last thirty years. Among the presidents and leaders of the association have been many who are well known figures in the National Capital. Three of them have been noted diplomats—George Bancroft, Andrew D. White and James B. Angell—two have been Presidents of the United States—Rutherford B. Hayes and Theodore Roosevelt. One of the presidents is believed by many to have furnished the inspiration for the building of the German imperial navy, the late Admiral Alfred T. Mahan.

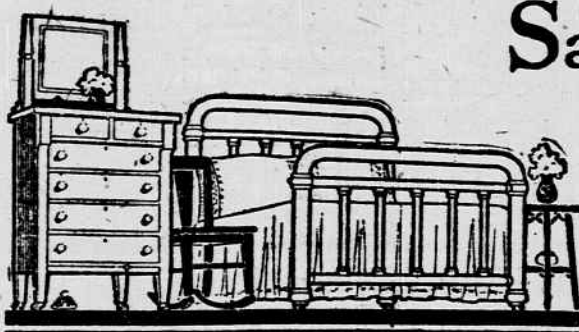
ONE EXCEPTION.

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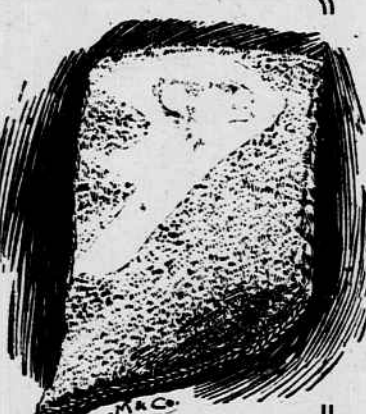
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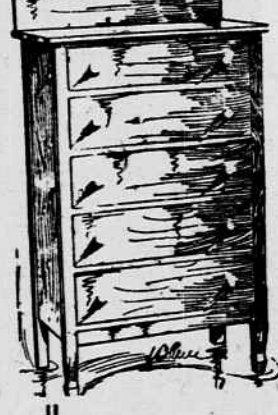
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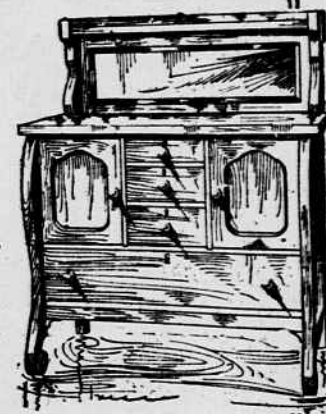
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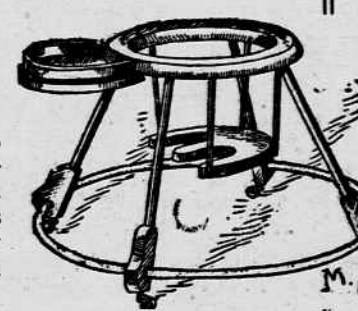
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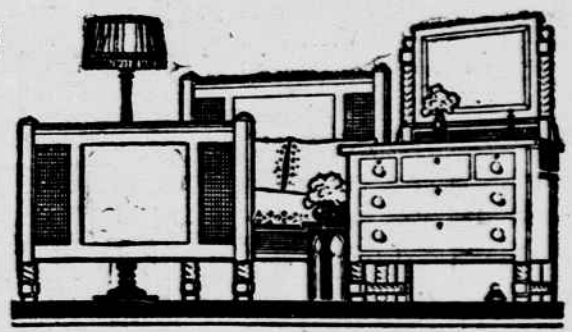
Baby Walker,
65c

BABY Walker,
with mahogany-fin-
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braced, roomy seat, runs
easily, and a reliable baby
tender. Has iron bottom
frame.



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golden oak, with large, roomy
drawers, wood pulls. Large mirror
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shaped standard. Special December
value.



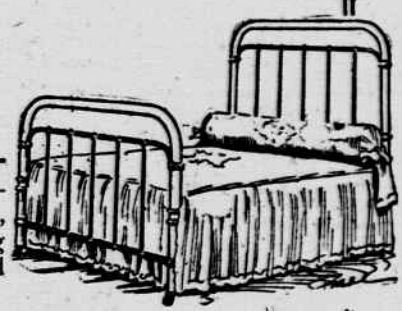
Golden Oak
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WELL Designed Chiffonier;
matches above dresser exactly;
solid golden oak, nicely polished; has
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drawer pulls; fitted with cabinet locks.



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9x12 Velvet Rugs, long, thick wool
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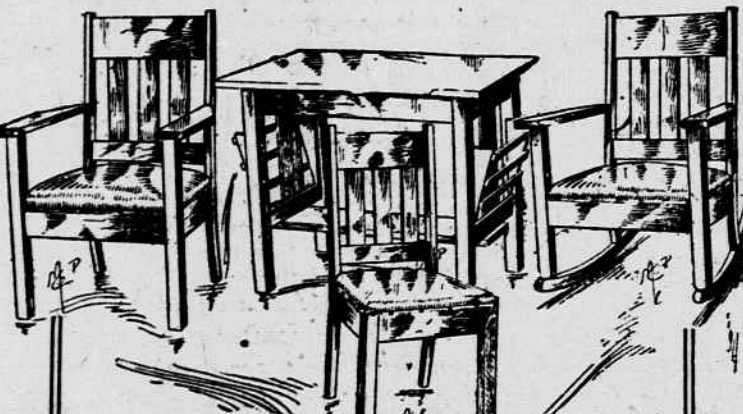
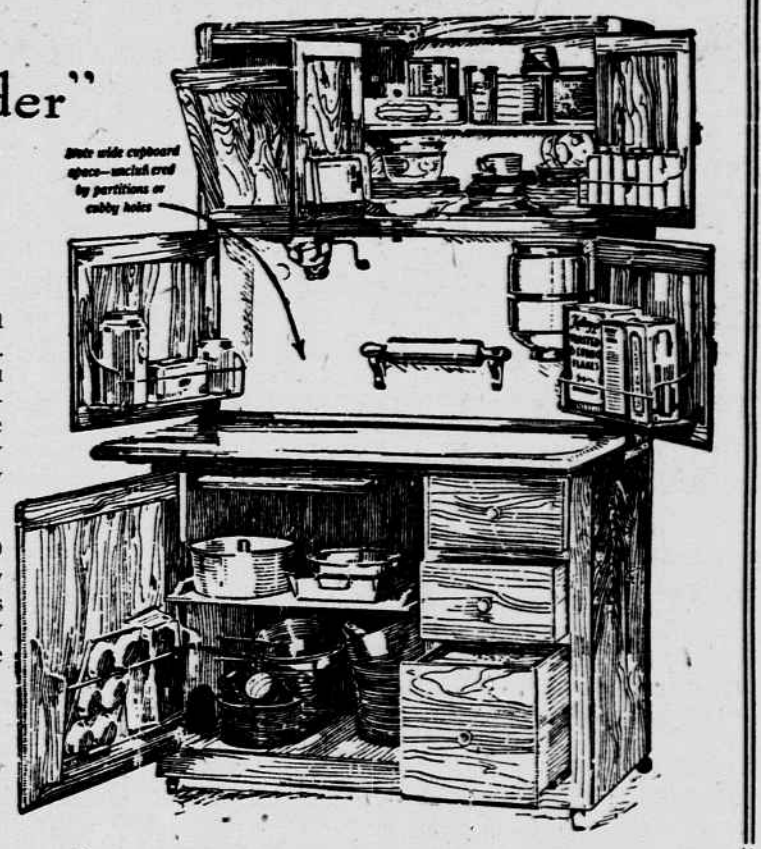
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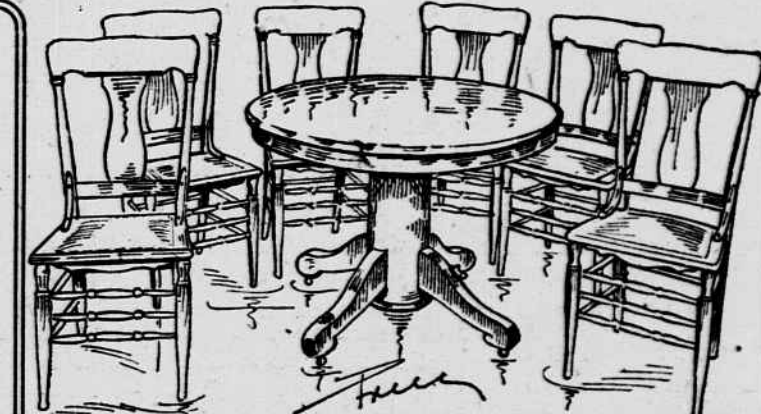
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